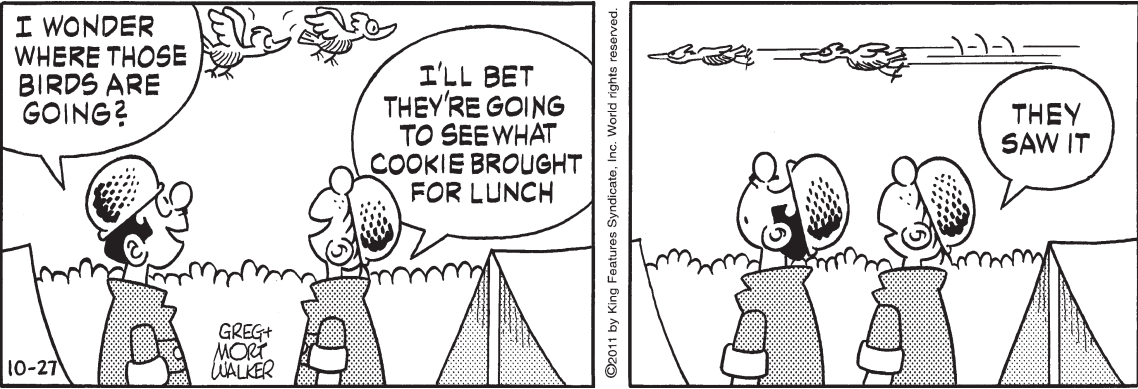


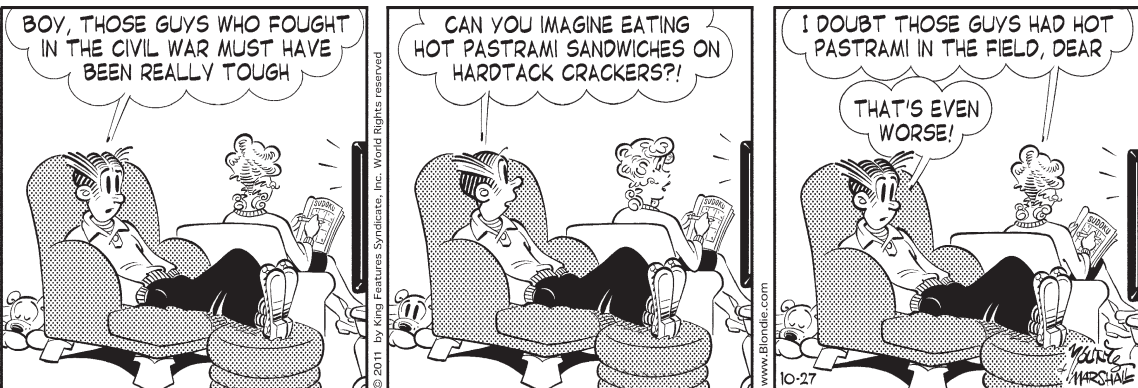
Baby Blues • Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



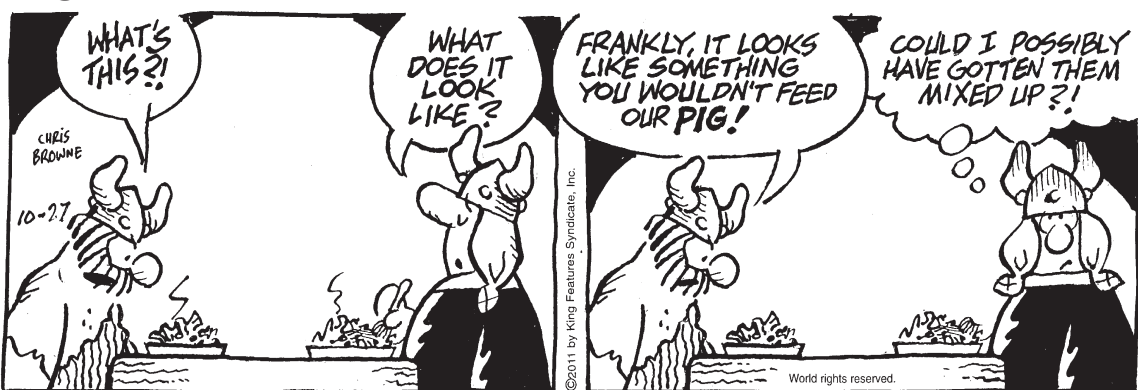
Beetle Bailey • Mort Walker



Blondie • Chic Young



Hagar the Horrible • Chris Browne



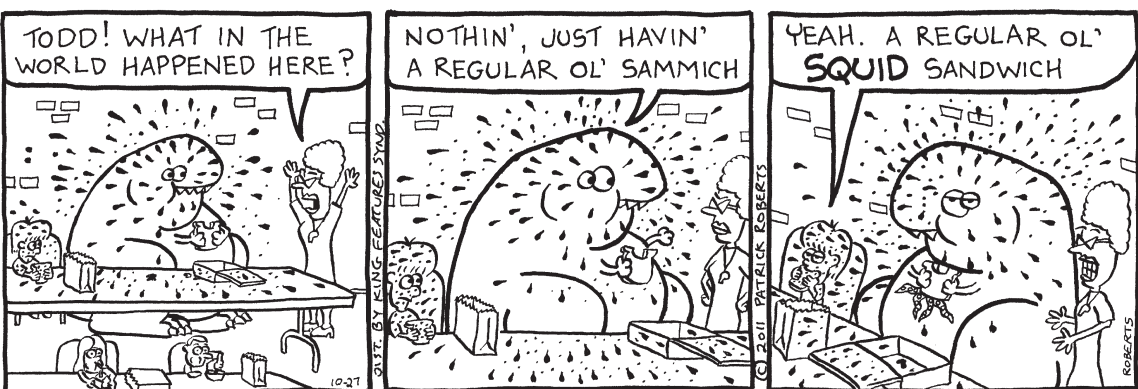
Mother Goose and Grimm • Mike Peters



Sally Forth • Greg Howard



Todd the Dinosaur • Patrick Roberts



Zits • Jim Borgman & Jerry Scott



Dr. Joyce Brothers

• Ask Dr. Brothers

Teen apathetic about everything

Dear Dr. Brothers: My daughter has always been quiet. She spends a great deal of time in her bedroom and doesn't have a big group of friends. Now she is 15, we have talked about driving, going out with boys, etc., and I am willing to give her reasonable freedom. But she doesn't ask for anything, doesn't care and is quieter than ever. How do I break through her reserve? - L.O.

Dear L.O.: It sounds like you are looking forward to a happy teenage experience more than your daughter is - in fact, it sounds like you are a good mom having a hard time fitting your daughter's style and personality into your understanding. You have an idea of the things she should be interested in, yet she doesn't seem to be on the same page. Since she is naturally reserved, it may take some doing to get her to open up to you, so don't be pushy. Try to engage her in a mother-daughter activity - take her to lunch or shopping, if she'll go - and gently approach the topic of her happiness. Be aware she could be depressed.

Teens almost always are reluctant to be entirely honest and forthcoming with their parents. So don't expect your daughter to pour her heart out. But by the end of this conversation, you should try to determine what your daughter is excited about in life (if anything), what she is looking forward to, what intimidates her about her life, who she'd like to spend more time with and what she would like to do with you. That will give you something to build on for the next time. Good luck.

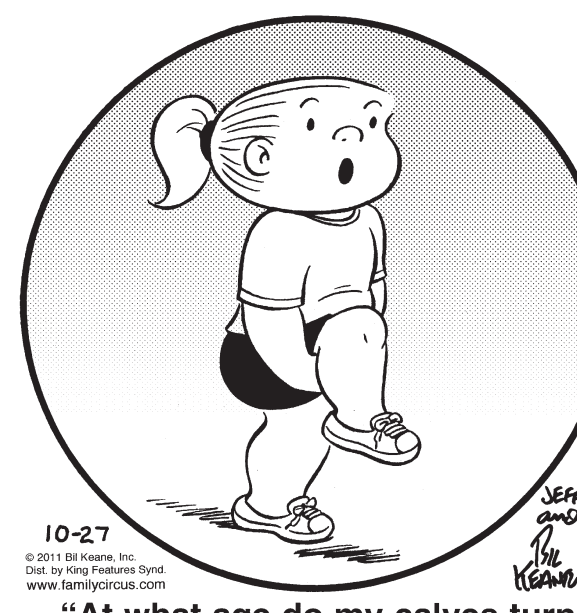
Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband was almost an Eagle Scout. He never tires of talking about how he should have kept going in scouting and regrets turning to sports and girls instead. Anyway, our son has been in scouting for a couple of years and wants to quit. He's talented in art, and at 12 he wants to make his own decisions. My husband is having a fit, and wants him to continue. Our son has kept going, but he's getting mad. What should we do? - G.F.

Dear G.F.: It sounds like a dream deferred has haunted your husband and he has put his hopes on living through his son to accomplish that ultimate scouting achievement. If he is realistic, he will see he can't force his son to stay in scouting for years until the goal is achieved. He would run the risk of alienating his son and I'm sure he does not want that kind of victory. He probably will need to gain acceptance and closure when it comes to his own dream - that it's not going to happen. Perhaps he could work with other scouts who are enthusiastically pursuing the goals he had - while allowing his son to go in a different direction.

It could be your husband is equating his less important activities - dating and sports - with your son's focus on something other than scouting. This is unfortunate, because if art is in your boy's future, it would be great if your husband (and you) could see he is doing this to use his talent. It's not the easiest path. He will need encouragement and support if he pursues a career in the arts. It would be great if your husband and son could focus on an alternate goal that will be rewarding for both of them.

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Family Circus • Bil Keane



Conceptis Sudoku • Dave Green

	6		1			4		
4	3	6		8	9			7
	5		9				8	
9		1	4		7	5		2
	1			3			5	
2	9	5		1	7			4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/27

This is a logic-based number placement puzzle. The goal is to enter a number, 1-9, in each cell in which each row, column and 3x3 region must contain only one instance of each numeral. The solution to the last Sudoku puzzle is at right.

5	3	4	8	9	2	1	7	6
7	8	2	6	1	5	9	4	3
6	9	1	3	4	7	5	8	2
8	5	6	1	2	3	4	9	7
9	2	3	4	7	8	6	1	5
1	4	7	9	5	6	2	3	8
3	1	8	5	6	4	7	2	9
4	7	5	2	8	9	3	6	1
2	6	9	7	3	1	8	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

Cryptoquip

FZWR F ZBYHU USZEN JZWY
SEFFULYYHJ UNZLYWYLN
QZH NGYRH JRLJ: "NGY
BRHUNYJ ZQ BYLULFY."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN ACTOR PLAYS A "STAR TREK" NAVIGATOR, I RECKON YOU MIGHT SAY HE GIVES A SULU PERFORMANCE.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

Crossword • Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Sweet potato	1 "Of course"
4 Wyoming neighbor	2 Past
8 Medicinal amount	3 Decorative
12 Id counterpart	4 High-priority
13 The Eternal City	5 Anderson's "High —"
14 Physical	6 Oriental nurse-maid
15 Baby picture?	7 Confine
17 Options list	8 Nearly divine one
18 Raw rock	9 The yoke's on them
19 Shenanigans	10 Founder-
21 Those who shun animal products	11 Ostriches' kin
24 Yuletide beverage	
25 Listener	
26 Car: jalopy :: boat : —	
28 Hayseed	
32 Memo acronym	
34 — de plume	
36 Queen of Carthage	
37 Madagascar critter	

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	L	F	M	E	A	T	S	L	E	D		
C	O	E	E	R	G	O	H	A	L	O		
T	I	T	D	R	A	W	B	A	C	K	S	
S	N	A	F	U	N	I	L					
	I	S	A	S		N	O	M	A	D		
C	U	T	B	A	C	K	S		M	I	M	E
O	N	E	E	I	E	I	O	S	O	N		
U	T	A	H	S	E	T	B	A	C	K	S	
P	O	L	A	R	T	U	T	U				
	W	O					U	K	A	S	E	
K	I	C	K	B	A	C	K	S	W	O	N	
E	D	I	E		F	R	E	E	L	U	V	
N	O	I	R		S	O	A	R	S	P	Y	

Yesterday's answer 10/27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13					14			
15		16						17			
	18			19		20					
21	22		23		24						
25			26		27		28		29	30	31
32		33		34		35		36			
37			38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50				
51				52		53				54	55
56				57					58		
59				60					61		